



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR VIDEO MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Salim Nice called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Salim Nice, Craig Reynolds, David Rosenbaum, Wendy Weiker (arrived at 5:30 pm), and Ted Weinberg participated remotely using Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Nice delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:
Approve the agenda as presented.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:
Amend the agenda to add discussion and potential City response to ESHB 1660
Motion to Amend Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weinberg)

Amended Motion Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weinberg)

STUDY SESSION

AB 6015: Presentation on Proposed Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Scope of Work, Master Schedule, and Public Participation Plan

Interim CPD Director Jeff Thomas gave a presentation on the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Scope of Work, Master Schedule, and Public Participation Plan. Director Thomas provided background on the Growth Management Act (GMA), GMA requirements, existing elements in the Comprehensive Plan, and the addition of two new elements that are now required, Growth Targets and Urban Growth Capacity.. Director Thomas covered the approach being taken for the period review and funding for the review, an overview of the Master schedule and the components of the public participation plan. Council discussed the presentation and asked questions of staff.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

King County Updates by Council Chair Claudia Balducci

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci provided an updated to the City Council on what the King County Council is doing. She spoke to the King County COVID response, relief and recovery, homelessness and housing affordability in the region, regional planning updates, mobility, and transportation update and how King County is supporting the Mercer Island Community.

Council asked questions of King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci and thanked her for the updates.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bon reported on the following items:

- Council, Boards & Commission meetings update: Planning Commission February 16, Parks & Recreation Commission March 3, Design Commission March 24. Annual Planning Session March 26.
- City services updates: February 14 power outage, Damage to North End Fire Station, Object thrown at MIFD Aid Car, MIFD Updates: Light Rail Emergency Response Training, Recreation Updates: Now accepting rental reservations, prepping for spring sports, Reviewing and Updating Polices, Merceddale playground update,
- Upcoming events: Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project Virtual Meeting, Spring Recycling Event March 26
- Some good news: Successful restoration event at the Bike Skills Area, City Hall masonry project finished, YFS receives Philanthropy Award.

APPEARANCES

Jay Greer (Mercer Island), spoke to the Council in support of the Bike Skills Area and how the closure of the bike skills area has affected his family.

Ronan Holloway (Mercer Island), spoke in support of the Bike Skills Area and about the benefit of the Bikes Skills Area to the community and to the kids on the Island.

Sue Stewart (Mercer Island), spoke on behalf of Friends of Luther Burbank Park and expressed that they are against the Bike Skills area and the proposed changes to Upper Luther Burbank Park regarding the Bike Skills area.

Daniel Thompson (Mercer Island), spoke regarding HB 1782 and SB 5670 to how these bills were not designed to create affordable housing and would not benefit Mercer Island.

Tom Acker (Mercer Island), spoke about HB 1782 and the Bike Skills Area. He thanked the Council for their engagement and advocacy with the state representatives on HB 1782. He spoke about the original intent of the bike area in Upper Luther Burbank Park and about the loss of activities for kids between the age of 8-16 and his support for looking a place on the Island for a bike area.

Ira Appleman (Mercer Island), spoke about HB 1782 and how it would negatively affect Mercer Island and thanked the Mayor for his engagement with the state representatives.

Dave Wisenteiner (Mercer Island), spoke about HB 1782 and thanked the Council for engagement with the state representatives and how important that engagement is.

Kate Akyuz (Mercer Island), spoke about the PROS Plan. She thanked the staff and Council for their work on the PROS Plan. She voiced her concerns that the PROS Plan is lacking on climate change and equity. She spoke is supportive of the Bike Skills Area and how it can help climate change and equity by keeping it on the Island.

Tim Punke (Mercer Island), spoke about zoning on the Island. He spoke to his support of keeping zoning laws under local control and thanked the Council and City Leadership team for advocating for the Island.

CONSENT AGENDA

Certification of Claims

- A. Check Register 210567-210685 | 1/28/2022 | \$838,477.11**
- B. Check Register 210686-210764 | 2/04/2022 | \$1,532,130.56**
- C. EFT Payments | January 2022 | \$2,500,086.52**

Recommendation Action: Certify that the City Council has reviewed the documentation supporting claims paid and approved all checks or warrants issued in payment of claims.

City Council Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2022

Recommended Action: Adopt the City Council Special Video Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2022 as presented.

AB 6014: ARPA Fund Utility Update & Appropriation Request

Recommended Action:

1. Appropriate \$799,000 in ARPA funding to commence design work for the three utility infrastructure projects.
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into Professional Service Agreements for the design of the First Hill Booster Pump Station Generator Replacement, Sewer Pipe Replacements and Upsizing, and Pressure Reducing Valve Station Replacement projects.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Approve the Consent Agenda and the recommended actions contained therein.

PASSED: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

REGULAR BUSINESS

ESHB 1660 Discussion and Potential City Response

City Manager Jessi Bon provided an overview of ESHB 1660 and a response letter that has been written on behalf of the City Council. The Council directed staff to send the letter to Senator Wellman expressing the City's opposition to ESHB 1660.

AB 6017: Public Hearing and Discussion on the 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Final Draft

Mayor Nice opened the public hearing at 7:19 pm.

Brian Shiers (Mercer Island), as the head coach of the Mercer Island Mountain Bike team, spoke in support of the Bike Skills Area and how it benefits Island youth and how to create a great bike park that is inclusive for all ages and skill levels.

Ira Appleman (Mercer Island), he spoke about safety in the parks and about his opposition of the Bike Skills Area, and his concerns about the safety and liability of a Bike Skills Area. He also spoke about coyotes and how they are making parks less safe.

There being no further comments, Mayor Nice closed the public hearing at 7:26 pm.

City Manager Jessi Bon presented the final draft of the 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS). She explained what a PROS Plan is and why it is necessary for Mercer Island to have one. She gave an overview of the Public Engagement process and of the high-level goals in Chapter 4. City Manager Bon spoke about the Bike Skills Area, the 2022 Capital Project appropriations, how the Parks CIP is a planning document, and regarding the reasoning for revenue assumptions.

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum asked the Council to consider including funding in the Six-Year Parks Capitol Improvement Fund for an evaluation of a splash pad/park to the Mercer Island parks system. He asked that staff identify 2-3 preferred locations for this amenity, embark on a public engagement process regarding the potential project, and that the City Manager provide a design update including preferred concept, updated cost estimates, construction timelines, and project scope of work before completing further design work. Following discussion, the City Council agreed to include the evaluation of a spray park in the final draft of the PROS Plan when it returns for approval.

AB 6018: 2021 Year End Police Report

Police Chief Ed Holmes presented the 2020 Year-End Police Report to the City Council on the. He spoke about who the MIPD is, how the officers have adjusted to the new policing laws in the state, and how he has provided feedback to elected leaders encouraging support of the currently proposed legislation.

Commander Jeff Magnan presented about Emergency Management, Crime Prevention, community outreach, the reaccreditation process MIPD went through to ensure best practices, and the Independent Force Investigation Team of King County.

Commander Mike Seifert presented on the number of incidents and calls MIPD responded to in 2021, the launch of the ALRP program in late 2021, how the department balanced COVID restrictions with proactive patrolling, how officers have used a compassionate approach to the new ordinance related to the use of public property, and about the continued focus of integrating de-escalation techniques into Use of Force training. Marine Patrol Sergeant Chad Shumacher presented on the Marine Patrol services provided in 2021 and the extending of Marine Patrol Services with Hunts Point and Medina beginning in 2022.

Chief Holmes shared support the MIPD has received from the community and expressed the departments and his appreciation of the community support.

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Bon updated on the change to publishing the Planning Schedule to a 3-month look-ahead. She spoke about an agenda item change adding the exit interview with the state auditors.

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Councilmember Reynolds spoke about K4C remaining active. Drafts of sign on letters from K4C looking for support are coming soon.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:35 pm, Mayor Nice convened an executive session via Microsoft Teams to discuss with legal counsel planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the City Council during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) for approximately 30 minutes.

Mayor Nice adjourned the executive session at 9:05 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.



Salim Nice, Mayor

Attest:



Andrea Larson, City Clerk